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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Troop Movements and Order of Battle

DATE (OF INFO.)

25X1

DATE DISTR. 3 MAY 1954

NO. OF PAGES 5

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. The Intelligence Section (Razuznavatelen Otdel) of the Headquarters of the Army in Sofia, RO-2, (the section for internal intelligence), in conjunction with the State Security and the Ministry of Interior, have recommended to the Minister of Defense, Colonel General / Petur / Ranchevski, that army units be sent to the Vratsa-Mikhaylovgrad-Belogradchik area to strengthen and safeguard order and security since the local population is in almost open revolt against the authorities. A large number of persons have fled to the mountains (Stara Planina) to join in an open armed resistance. Movements of Yugoslav troops towards the Bulgarian border were observed at the mouth of the Timok River near Vidin.
2. In response to this recommendation, the Headquarters of the Army ordered the commanding officer of the 36th Oryakhovo Infantry Regiment in Oryakhovo to move the 1st and 2nd battalions (druzhina) of the Regiment to the Mikhaylovgrad-Belogradchik area and together with the regiment headquarters to remain there in military readiness and safeguard the units from partisan action.
3. In response to these instructions, the commanding officer of the regiment, Colonel Draginchev (fnu), sent the two battalions of the regiment in three groups to Mesdra railroad station where some companies went on by train and others marched along assigned routes. The regimental headquarters was brought by train, and was set up near Mikhaylovgrad. Its supply unit arrived by truck.
4.  the following order of battle was reported to the Headquarters of the Army

The First Infantry Battalion with the mortar company, the heavy machine gun company, an antitank company, and a signal platoon are located about eight km from Belogradzhik, upstream on the Lon River. The battalion headquarters is in the village of Falkovets, sic. / near the bridge over the river where there are stone buildings.

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The State Security and units of DOSO [ Dobrovolna Organizatsiya za Sudeystvie na Otbrana - Voluntary Organization For Defense Cooperation ] are located in the houses of a former private farm which is between Belogradchik and Falkovets, on the right side of the highway going from Belogradchik to Ruzhitsa.

The Second Infantry Battalion with a mortar company, a heavy machine gun company, and a signal platoon are located in Berkovitsa and the battalion headquarters is in Mikhaylovgrad.

The special battalion of the Regiment with the supply unit (domakinstvo) remains in garrison at Oryakhovo in the barracks of the 36th Infantry Regiment.

5. According to information received, the Headquarters of the frontier troops under the Ministry of Interior and the section for strengthening the borders and the border zones (formed under the headquarters of the army in 1948) had temporarily almost discontinued their activity along the Yugoslav frontier since attempts were being made after Stalin's death for a rapprochement between the USSR and Yugoslavia which would include neighboring Satellite governments. Recently, however, this activity was again resumed and labor service units from the labor Service Brigade in Pleven, which work wherever there are military units, were again noticed along the entire border.
- 25X1 6. [ ] following activities were observed along the border: Some echelons, but not the entire labor service brigade from Pleven, which is one of the six labor service brigades in Bulgaria, were gradually moved to the border sector at the northern border upstream on the Timok River in the direction of Kom Mountain (Vrukh) in the Stara Planina.
7. The brigade battalions received their assignments and began cleaning out and inspecting previously dug trenches, pits, wire entanglements, and tank obstacles. They began reinforcing bridges of roads leading to the border. Work on fortifications at bends in the highways and on hills was also begun.
8. Two battalions from the Third Vidin Regiment in Vidin were brought close to the Yugoslav border and located as follows:  
  
One battalion was in the area of Vrushka Ohuka Mountain opposite Salase and Zajecar (in Yugoslavia).  
  
The second battalion was located in the area of Bregovo three km from the border. The battalion confiscated the private dwellings of exiled villagers and interned oppositionists.
- 25X1 9. Units from the Sofia 6th Infantry Regiment and from the Guard regiment in Sofia were brought to the Kyustendil frontier sector near the Yugoslav border [ ] and were assigned as follows:  
  
An army unit with support from DOSO and the frontier troops to the area of Gernavtsi in the direction of Bosilgrad upstream on the Dragovishtitsa River.
- 25X1 Army units and guard (partisans) units to Lomno and Perivol, Kyustendil Okoliya. Private houses and schools were taken over for the men.
10. The border [ uchastuk ] district of Treklyano was reinforced during [ ] by frontier troops which came from the Zeman railroad station district.
- 25X1 11. [ ] there was a call-up of men in the 1933 class. Only those men who had completed their secondary education were called, while farmers and workers were not called because they were needed in their work and because of the harvest season.

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12. In Sofia, near the central prison, in the Headquarters of the frontier troop barracks, where an antiaircraft unit (otdelenie) was formerly stationed, there is now a "Chekisti" regiment. Their uniform is like that of other troops except that they wear blue caps. They are subordinate to the Ministry of Interior. Chekisti are formed into groups called "Tayfun".
13. Near the Chekisti barracks in the direction of the railroad station and the highway to Nadezhda (Lom highway), are the barracks and school of the railroad regiment. There are fuel tanks near the bridge and the barracks on the highway to Nadezhda.
14. A tank unit composed of tanks supplied by the USSR is stationed in the barracks of the former First Cavalry Regiment opposite the "Svebola" (Freedom) Park / in Sofia /. There are tank units also in the barracks at Gorna Banya and Gorublyane. These units have two types of tanks, the "T-34" and the "ZIS" (which is heavier than the "T-34").
15. There are heavy antitank guns on the Slatina, Konovo, and Lozen redoubts. Their positions are protected by barbed wire and access to these is granted only to sentries and their superiors.
- 25X1 16. [redacted] reserves up to 40 years of age were called up. Some remained for one month, some remained for less time, and some for more. Those who were released did not tell what unit they had been in or what their assignments were because the political commanders and other chiefs had forbidden them to tell under penalty of the severest punishment for divulging military secrets.
17. The 34th Infantry Regiment, an aircraft repair shop, a school for workers in aircraft repair shops and factories, and an airfield, are located in Lovech.
18. The headquarters of the 6th Tank Division is located in the barracks four km east of Sofia. It has three motorized infantry regiment, tanks, and artillery pieces. The regiment / s? / have a headquarters company and three battalions. The commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion is Kurtu Kurtev, about 40 years old, a former partisan, and a fanatic Communist.
19. Kurtev's brother is the director and administrator of the Belene concentration camp in Svishtov Okoliya, which is known as the worst camp for punishing inmates. The political commander of the battalion is Captain Dimitrov (fnu) from Lom Okoliya.
20. The 3rd battalion of the Motorized Infantry Regiment of the 6th Tank Division has the following composition: headquarters company, two rifle companies, one heavy machine gun company, one mortar company, and one tank platoon. The commanding officer of the headquarters company is First Lieutenant Mitrev (fnu) from Berkovitsa Okoliya (a reserve officer).
21. The company has the following platoons:
  - a) Signal platoon which consists of three squads of five men each with a telephone (switchboard (vrusko)) and two / portable / radios with two men each (or 20 men and one non-commissioned officer in all).
  - b) Quartermaster platoon with three squads of ten men each. One is the headquarters squad with clerks and couriers. The second is supply and the third squad is the medical squad. There are about 30 men in all. The company is armed with Soviet Vintovka carbines and Soviet Shpagin automatic weapons / pistols /. The weapons are completely new.

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22. The First Motorized Rifle Company has three platoons of 20 men each with a company commander and three platoon leaders. This is true also for the Second / Motorized ? / Rifle Company. Both companies are armed with Soviet Vintovka rifles, the commanders are armed with Soviet Shpagin automatic weapons / pistols /. Each squad has one "DP" light machine gun. The heavy machine gun company has three platoons of 20 men each. Each platoon has three Shvartsloze heavy machine guns on trucks, and the men are armed with Vintovka rifles, the gunners have pistols.
23. The mortar company has three platoons of 20 men each and each platoon has three completely new Soviet 82 mm mortars. The soldiers are armed with carbines. The tank platoon has three T-34 tanks and 15 soldiers. The battalion has 20 more trucks for carrying the personnel, weapons, and ammunition.
24. A tank brigade which is under the 6th Tank Division is located in the barracks near Sofia, and Simeonovo, where the former antiaircraft regiment was quartered. The barracks are near the American College.
25. On the highway to Plovdiv, four km from Sofia, the artillery regiment and headquarters of the 6th Tank Division are located. There is also a truck regiment here. The headquarters of the airforce and units of the Infantry Headquarters of the First Army are quartered in the block of barracks on Patriarkh Eftimiy Street and Stalin (formerly Ferdinand Street) where the 1st and 6th Infantry regiments were formerly quartered.
26. An infantry regiment and warehouses of the main Quartermaster Unit are now in the Lozenets ward (Kvartal). They are quartered in the former barracks of the School for Reserve Officers. These barracks go as far as the Arsenal. The weapons warehouses of the First Army are also there. The guard regiment is quartered in the barracks of the Cavalry Guard regiment on Zaimov Boulevard (formerly Regentaka Street) near the former Svoboden Teatur (Free Theatre) near the Vasil Levski Monument. The Officers' Political School and the Chekisti Regiment are quarters in the barracks near the Central Prison. A large motorized unit is quartered in new barracks about 200 m from Sukhodol, Sofia Okoliya, in the direction of Gorna Banya. The headquarters of the 6th Infantry Division is in Vratsa.
27. A new airfield for jet planes has been built between Kumartsa and Dobroslavtsi, Sofia Okoliya. A large concrete runway and underground hangars were constructed. Civilians and persons without special permission from the military authorities are not allowed within a wide area surrounding the airfield.
28. A new airdrome is located on the left side of the railroad line from Plovdiv to Asenovgrad (four km from Asenovgrad). Only two large hangars have been built. [REDACTED] there were 80 fighter planes of an unknown type.
29. An airfield for jet planes has been built near Gabrovnitsa, Lom Okoliya. Construction was begun in 1950. The workers were soldiers and trudovaks. Civilians were not allowed to work even on a voluntary (unpaid) basis. The airfield has a concrete runway and underground hangars, and is hidden from view from the highway and the railroad. There are jet aircraft and Soviet aviators at the airfield (information comes from persons in the village).
30. In Dolna Mitropoliya, Plevan Okoliya, there is a runway for jet planes. [REDACTED] There is also an airfield for jet aircraft near Stara Zagora, for which the old airfield was converted. Recently in landing, a pilot lost control and the aircraft cracked up on the runway.

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31. The Voenna Rampa (Military Ramp) kvartal (ward) is located in a so-called triangle formed by one side of the Central railroad station in Sofia, by the "Triugulnik" (Triangle) kvartal between Sofia and Madeshda, and by the former Bakish Rubber Factory. (Now the "Georgi Dimitrov" Plant for rubber and rubber products for trucks and other motorized units). In the Voenna Rampa kvartal on the Sofia-Ilientsi-Stalin railroad line at the Voenna Rampa stop there is a factory for vegetable oil and castor oil. Castor oil refined from castor beans is put into barrels which are sealed by a special Bulgarian-Soviet Commission named by the Ministry of Defense with the following inscription: "Food Export, Castor Oil (in Russian)". The barrels are sent to the USSR where most of the oil is used for lubricating oil for aircraft engines. The factory works without interruption in three shifts. The general capacity is six tons (tonel) of oil per 24 hours. The director of the factory is Trifunov (fnu), a Communist, who was named recently. He was formerly in the Directorate of State Security. The Assistant Director and Technical Director is a Communist named Vladimir Yurukov, about 50 years old, who came from Burgas where he was formerly director of the Export warehouses for ore intended for the USSR. A similar factory for light oils from corn is located in Zhablyano, Radomir Okoliya, about 1 1/2 km from the station of Zhablyano and about six km from Zemen railroad station. The oil produced in this factory is taken by train to the Voenna Rampa factory for further refining. The oil is used in aviation in Bulgaria and the USSR.

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